

**Stakeholders' meet on sugarcane and sugar sector was organized**

A Stakeholders' meet on *Sugarcane and Sugar Sector @2025* was organized by ICAR- Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2022. The major objective was to provide a common platform to various stakeholders like scientists, sugar industry, development departments, input providers, sugarcane farmers and Self Help Groups to deliberate on all the current issues of concern for the sector and way-forward to address the challenges in 2025 and beyond. Inaugurating the meet as the Chief Guest, Shri Sanjay R. Bhoosreddy, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Sugarcane and Sugar Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh said that due to the improved cane production technology of research institutes, hard work of farmers and intervention in the management of sugar mills, farmers income has increased by 1.75 time during the period 2017-2022 and effort is now intensified to double the farmers' income in real term by 2027 considering the figure in base year 2022. He informed that due to reform introduced by the State Government the production capacity of 94 operational distilleries in U.P. has enhanced to 183 crores litres bio-ethanol. It would be further increase up to 215 crores litres in the forthcoming cane crushing season 2022-23. He also illustrated that State Government had saved ₹ 2800 crores by generating 700 MW of power through cogeneration in sugar mills. He appreciated the improved sugarcane production technologies developed by the research institutes and congratulated the Scientists for their immense contribution.

Dr. A.D. Pathak, Director, ICAR-IISR, Lucknow, while welcoming the guests and participants, discussed the major achievements of the Institute. He informed that research work has been initiated by the Institute in the frontier areas like natural farming, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, biotechnology etc. Dr. G. Hemaprabha, Director, ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore informed that varieties of sugarcane developed by the Institute are prevalent in various countries around the globe. She emphasized the need of fine tuning the breeding strategies for higher biomass production, climate resilience smart varieties through biotechnological approaches. Shri. S.C. Deshmukh, Director General, Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune, in his address remarked that the sugarcane was earlier considered a political crop, is now being known as an industrial crop. Shri Deshmukh credited the government policies for the transformation of sugarcane and sugar industry. Dr. Sushil Solomon, former Vice Chancellor, C.S. Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur appreciated the coordinated efforts of all the stakeholders to translate the vision documents prepared by IISR, Lucknow into a reality and appreciated the farmers' friendly policies of the Government for the betterment of sugarcane and sugar sector.

Prof. Narendra Mohan, Director, NSI, Kanpur attributed the transformation in the Indian sugar sector to the fixation of minimum selling prices of sugar and the differential pricing policy of ethanol. He expressed satisfaction over increasing profitability of sugar mills through product diversification and less dependency on sugar for revenue generation. He suggested that the sugar sector should be made self-sustained through harnessing the unexploited potential and introduction of new speciatilty products as per consumers' preference and demand. Shri Sanjay Awasthi, President, STAI credited the success of breaking infamous sugar cycle to the techniques of research institutes and government policies. He explained the need of transformation into green energy production with global competitiveness in term of per unit cost. In his plenary presentation, Shri R. K Gangwar ED, Mawana Sugar, highlighted the yield gains and monetary contribution of variety Co 0238 especially in subtropical zone. He emphasized that the this variety should be rejuvenated through tissue culture, as farmers still need this variety for some more year on their farms. On this occasion, Eminent persons of sugar industry; Presidents of women self-help groups of Barabanki, Hardoi, Sitapur and Lakhimpur and two progressive sugarcane farmers of Sitapur and Bareilly were awarded with Certificates and Memento. Discussing the objectives of the Meet Dr. A.K. Sah, I/c, Extension and Training and Organizing Secretary thanked all the distinguished guests and participants. More than 300 scientists, researchers, executives of sugar industry, officers of sugarcane development department, *Urjadata* (sugarcane farmers), members of NGOs/FPOs/SHGs have participated in the meeting. The inaugural program was conducted by Dr. Anita Sawnani, Chief Technical Officer.











